

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

March 20, 2001

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Clancy, Sysyn, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Hirschmann

Messrs: Lt. Tracy, T. Lolicata

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from Robin Bonneau requesting the use of Arms Park and the Notre Dame Bridge on Sunday, May 27, 2001, with a rain date of Monday, May 28, 2001 for the 10th Annual Memorial Weekend fireworks display.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to approve this request.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Cindy Lafond requesting the closure of a portion of Granite Street between Commercial and Bedford Streets, as herein enclosed, on June 2, 2001 from 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM for the YMCA World's Largest Run.

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to approve this request.

Alderman Pariseau asked is this the same outfit that we had a problem with last year and it had a negative impact on the local businesses and we got a letter from one of the owners.

Lt. Tracy stated this is a new race. We didn't have this one last year. They are using the same race course as the *Union Leader* Millyard Run that takes place during Riverfest. This is a new event. We are aware of it and they are going to hire a police detail for that day to control traffic. It does say 8 AM until 12 PM but I really don't think it will be closed for that whole four hours.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Copy of a communication from John McDevitt, Jr. to Alderman Pariseau relative to the recent "Traffic Calming" experiment on President Road.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to receive and file this communication.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated this is dated January 25, 2001. How is it that we are receiving it only in the end of March?

Alderman Pariseau replied that is a problem that we just addressed in Administration. These letters are referred to the full Board for referral back to Committee. The Committee on Traffic meeting was cancelled because of the snowstorm.

Chairman Clancy advised that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

Stop Signs:

On Weston St., at Lowell St., NWC, SEC (4-Way School Zone)

Alderman Sysyn

On Allen St. at Boynton St., NEC (Emergency Act)

Alderman Cashin

Rescind Stop Sign:

On Allen St. at S. Main St., NWC (Emergency Act)

Alderman Cashin

Rescind One Way Street:

Allen St. from Boynton St. to South Main St. East Bound -
(Emergency Act)

Alderman Cashin

No Parking:

On Willow St, West Side, from Cedar St. to A point 125 Feet Southerly

On Chestnut St, West Side, from Lake Ave to Auburn St

Alderman Levasseur

On Russell St East Side from Bridge St to Arlington St

Alderman Sysyn

On Hayward St South Side from Jewett St to a point 80 Feet Westerly

Alderman Shea

On Pond Drive, Both Sides, From Goffe Falls Road to the deadend of Pond Drive
Alderman Vaillancourt
On Tilton St West Side from Card St. to Milford St
Alderman Cashin

Parking 30 Minutes (8am-6pm):

On Elm Street, West Side, from a point 275 feet South of Brown Avenue to a
point 20 Feet Southerly
Alderman Pariseau

Rescind Parking 2 Hours (8am-6pm):

On Elm Street West Side, from Brown Ave to a point 295 Feet Southerly –
Unlimited
Alderman Pariseau

Rescind No Parking:

On Chestnut West Side from Lake Ave to a point 100 feet South
Alderman Levasseur
On Russell St East Side from Bridge St to a point 100 feet northerly
Alderman Sysyn
On Tilton St., East Side, from Milford St. to Card St.
(Emergency Act)
Alderman Cashin

Rescind Parking 2 Hours (Meters):

On Chestnut St West Side from Spruce St to Cedar St
Alderman Levasseur

Rescind Parking 2 Hours (8am-6pm) Meters:

On Willow St, West Side, from Cedar St. to a point 125 Feet Southerly
Emergency Act
Alderman Levasseur

One Way Street:

Cedar St from Elm St to Willow St, East Bound
Alderman Levasseur

Accessible Parking Spaces:

Canal Street Garage

Basement Level – East Center End, South Wall – 2 spaces (One Van
Access)

Level 1 – West Center Wall, across from the elevator, 4 spaces (One Van Access)

Level 2 – East Wall, north of the elevator – 1 Space

Level 3 – West Center Wall, across from the elevator, 4 Spaces (One Van Access)

Level 4 – East Wall, north of the elevator, 1 Space

Level 5 – East Wall, north of the elevator, 1 Space

Alderman Levasseur

Victory Parking Garage

Section 1a – South Wall Southwest corner, 9 spaces including One Van Accessible

Section 1d – North Wall – Northwest Corner – 8 Spaces including One Van Accessible

Section 1 D – South Wall Northwest Corner, 1 Van Accessible Space

Alderman Levasseur

10-Hour Meters – Civic Center:

Elm St both sides Auburn St to Valley St

Willow St east side Auburn to Valley

W Auburn St north side from Elm to Canal

Depot St both sides from Elm to Canal

Franklin both sides from Depot to Old Granite

Lake Ave north side from Union to Pine

Manchester both sides from Chestnut to Union

Merrimack north side from Pine to Union

Pine St Valley to Lake Ave

Union west side from Merrimack to Auburn

Manchester south side from a point 180 feet east of Chestnut to Pine St.

Chestnut St both sides from Lake to Auburn

Auburn St north side from Union to Elm

Central St north side from Pine to Union

Laurel St. north side from Pine to Union

Spruce St. both sides from Chestnut St. to Union
Cedar St. both sides from Chestnut St. To Union

Residential Parking Permit Extension:

Pine St. Valley to Auburn

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve the traffic agenda as presented.

Alderman Lopez asked, Tom, could you explain...I have had some calls and I want to let the Committee know, but could you explain the 10 hour meters around the civic center and how that came about. I know there is a meeting this Friday and I think you are part of it.

Mr. Lolicata answered we have already held some meetings and there is another one coming Monday. These 10-hour meters surrounding the civic center, what I want from you is just permission for now to place them on these streets. I will be coming in with an ordinance defining it. Like Cedar Street has both sides, but I am going to come up on one side because you can't fit them on both sides. This is a certain area and I would like permission...we are going to be putting 10-hour meters in these areas that you see now.

Alderman Lopez asked why.

Mr. Lolicata answered these are the areas where you are going to pick up your 300 to 400 meters for the civic center. Willow Street, South Elm Street and we are only going as far east right now as Union and no further.

Alderman Lopez stated I guess my question is, I understand the revenue and the 10-hour meters, but how did it develop and who developed it.

Mr. Lolicata replied the 10-hour meters have been here for awhile. It is just that in these particular areas that is where 10-hour meters would have gone anyway. Most people come down, especially in those areas, 90% of them work downtown. They are not two-hour meters.

Alderman Lopez asked what input did we have to make sure that we are making the right decision or recommending the right decision.

Mr. Lolicata answered right now we have had input from the Desmond Report and from the Traffic Department and other people on these committees.

Chairman Clancy asked what committees are you talking about.

Mr. Lolicata answered this meeting coming up on Friday is going to be for the public. We have already had two or three meetings with Jay Taylor, myself, and department heads to get this thing started. We have to get started on these things. We have some stuff already in the works. At Friday's meeting we want to get people from the Chamber and the MTA to be involved and others. We want to get some other ideas like will we have a shuttle? Where can we put the buses? We have about 100 questions right now and right now I have to have about 400 meters put in before this thing opens up. We did a whole study of the area.

Chairman Clancy stated my contention is why put the meters in if you are going to be taking some of them out. Who said these meters were supposed to go there?

Mr. Lolicata replied we came up with an area.

Chairman Clancy asked did the Aldermen vote on these.

Mr. Lolicata answered no. This originally started with the Desmond Report. We worked off of that.

Alderman Hirschmann stated Dan O'Neil and I were both at the Civic Center Committee meeting last night. They want anything to do with these plans referred back to that Committee because like Tom said there are two or three different committees out there and they are not communicating with the Civic Center Committee. We made a motion last night that all of these things have to filter back through that Committee because we want to be on the same page. I just want to ask a question about these 10-hour meters. What are the meter maids hours? Don't they work during the day?

Mr. Lolicata replied they do work during the daytime.

Alderman Hirschmann asked are they going to enforce these at nighttime.

Mr. Lolicata answered they are going to be enforced, yes. As a matter of fact, I am going to be doing something with the two hour meters besides that.

Alderman Hirschmann asked so we are going to be putting on nighttime meter maids to enforce these.

Mr. Lolicata answered we had a meeting today with the Chief of Police and Parks & Recreation for purposes of finding out what we are going to be utilizing during these events as far as police enforcement, collections at the lots, etc. All of these things are trying to get together right now. We have already started some of these

things. I have started signage for these things. Right now, we are trying to get all of this into one package. At Friday's meeting, some of these things will be brought up and the other people can have their input. We will be looking for input from the MTA. All I want is permission for this particular area. We are not going to go any further. We are working on the area from Valley to Hanover and nowhere else.

Alderman Hirschmann asked who is working on the permit plan.

Chairman Clancy stated the permit plan as it stands right now, I have a lot of people telling me that they are not in favor of it because there is no place for them to park as it is. Some of these lots in the inner City area are 50' x 100'. There are probably five or six cars in a three decker family and they only have room for two cars so they have to put four cars out in the street. If you are going to have permit parking, they are going to take up four meters. They don't want that. They really don't want that. They said listen we don't live down here to have permit parking when the rest of the City doesn't have it.

Mr. Lolicata replied we are working on a sticker program, which you have in place right now in certain areas.

Chairman Clancy responded we don't have them yet.

Mr. Lolicata stated right now you have an ordinance area whereby some people go down to Parking Violations and get a sticker and park in front of their house. The sticker shows proof of occupancy. Based on that, that is what we are working on. That is one area, especially the ones closest to the civic center. The meters still have to go in there for revenue purposes, for control purposes and for parking purposes for people who come to the civic center. Most of the people that you are speaking of up to Maple or up to Union have parking in the back street. Those who don't utilize the front of the house and they can apply for a sticker. That will take care of them. We are also going to go further than that and have two hour limited parking east of Maple Street where the residents won't be hurt and it will discourage people from parking up there from 6 PM to 10 PM. These are some of the things that will be brought back to you. We are trying to do this as easily and calmly as possible to help people, but we have to do something for people coming to the civic center too. People have to park somewhere.

Chairman Clancy replied I said last night that we need parking badly. We need a parking garage badly. I still maintain that we are going to need a parking garage.

Mr. Lolicata stated we are going to make it with the lots we have and all of these other permits that you are talking about like for garages, through ordinance, we

want from 6 AM until 5:30 PM. Some people think they have a 24-hour pass. They don't. Those monthlies are from Monday through Friday from 8 AM until 6 PM.

Alderman Clancy stated that has to be spelled out though.

Mr. Lolicata replied we are emphasizing that at the meeting on Friday. It will be from 6 AM until 5:30 PM.

Alderman O'Neil stated, Tom, we were led to believe that all of the parking was available either in City lots or in garages with proper signage and advertisement. This is going to be a political nightmare, what is on this piece of paper right here because the residents are going to raise holy heck over this. We never bought into this. Nobody ever committed that there was going to be all kinds of on street parking up in those neighborhoods for the civic center. All of the studies that came back that I saw said that there was enough parking in parking garages and in City owned lots and if there was a shuttle service utilized, they would park there. I am telling you right now, I am never going to vote for what is on this piece of paper. It is going to be a nightmare.

Mr. Lolicata replied first of all, Willow Street and Elm Street, you will pick up over 200 meters right there. That is non-residential. That is just one area where nobody parks. The other parts around that civic center will be 10-hour meters. People can get a sticker. They are going to have a parking lot for 475 cars done this spring. The report states that a lot of buses will be bringing in people. Each car is going to average 1.2 to 2.0 people for games and 4 people for concerts. Don't forget the limousines coming in.

Chairman Clancy responded we are not talking about that, Tom, we are talking about parking.

Mr. Lolicata replied I know and that is what we are taking into consideration.

Chairman Clancy stated you know when that civic center was approved, this was never brought up to the residents of the inner City area that there were going to be meters in front of their houses and they were going to be charged for parking.

Mr. Lolicata replied I know and I am answering his question right now and I think I am answering it correctly.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am not disagreeing with you, Tom, but one of the things we have to be with the civic center is realists. I can kind of relate this a little bit to Portland, Maine where the baseball stadium is. You go up there for a game and

you can take a chance that you park in the neighborhood, but you can drive around all night trying to find a parking spot. They advertise the heck out of a park & ride over at the Holiday Inn. The buses take you right to the game and when you come out they are waiting for you to take you back. I envision something similar in Manchester with the civic center. They didn't put meters up all over the neighborhoods. If somebody figured revenue into this thing by putting in meters, then in my opinion they were wrong. If we cut a deal on that, there is a problem.

Mr. Lolicata replied you are right with the shuttle if they go for it. That is why the permits like up to Victory Garage, Hartnett Lot and Bedford Lot, when the signage goes through, these are places where we are going to bring these people. You have to understand that between the private parking, the parking lots and the garages and what you have downtown...

Alderman O'Neil interjected I would rather see our concentration on the lots and the garages and the shuttle service and advertising it properly so that when people come from outside the City of Manchester that they will know I want to go to the Victory Parking Garage and I can pick up a shuttle bus that is going to take me right to the civic center. Tom, I have a very hard time with these 10-hour meters on the streets as they are described here. I really do. I would rather see let the people take a chance if somebody wants to park there and there is a parking spot, that is fine but 99% of the time they are not going to find a parking spot there anyway.

Mr. Lolicata stated in answer to your first question, that is going to be the emphasis of those places you were talking about when we get this thing going in the package. The other part is some of these streets were going to be earmarked for meters anyway. It hasn't been done for years. You haven't had meters on Central or Merrimack...that is going to come before this Committee just like anything else. These are places that haven't even been touched yet.

Alderman O'Neil replied I just see it being a political nightmare. The phones won't stop ringing.

Alderman Pariseau moved to table this section of the traffic agenda.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I don't understand the big problem. I fully expected this to happen when I was against the civic center. People are going to come to town. They are not going to look for a parking lot. If I go to Fenway Park, I am going to drive around the streets of Boston until I find a parking space. What is the big deal with this? This is the kind of thing we bought into when we bought into this building. Now we are going to have to live with it. What is the alternative? Not having parking meters and having them park for nothing? The

spaces are still going to be there. Let's get the meters out and get them up and get people parking there. The residents, as you assured us Tom, are going to be given resident permits right?

Mr. Lolicata replied if they want to apply for a sticker, they can.

Alderman Vaillancourt responded well I suggest they do.

Alderman Hirschmann stated in the commercial areas it kind of makes sense at night because a lot of those businesses are closed. Where the residential areas are, instead of meters, Tom, what I would prefer to see is signage that says permit parking only and if you are not a resident with a permit, then you get towed. No meters. These are people's homes we are talking about. Just like the Alderman said, that is his ward. I didn't expect meters there. We are building Rubenstien parking lot so people can park there and get a shuttle bus.

Chairman Clancy stated, Tom, to be truthful I myself am against these meters in the inner-city area. I would rather have you put signage up regarding the parking garages. When people from out of town come in and start parking in front of people's houses and we are going to have meters when these people don't have places to park themselves, what is going to happen? Vandalism. People are going to say you can't park in front of my house and if this happens two or three times a week they are going to get upset about it. There is going to be a lot of vandalism down there I will tell you right now.

Mr. Lolicata replied I guess what I am saying is you people passed the civic center and now we have to do something with that if we are going to try to make it go. We have to do some things here to try to make this go and one of the things is you have to provide certain things for these people and one of them is parking, which we are doing. We are also thinking of the residents.

Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion to table this section of the traffic agenda. Chairman Clancy called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Sysyn and Vaillancourt duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman Gatsas stated I just want to remind everybody that I believe there was an allocation in your budget, Tom, this year of \$30,000 and next year for \$30,000 for 10-hour meters.

Mr. Lolicata replied there is an annual allocation for parking meters in my line item for 300 meters each year.

Alderman Gatsas asked and the Desmond Study that proposed the parking for the City and for the civic center...I believe if you go back to that study it is going to show you that there were metered spaces in those various parts of the City. That is where they were picking up.

Alderman Hirschmann stated they don't have to go in a residential zone.

Alderman Gatsas replied well let's just understand where you are going with this, Alderman, because...

Alderman Hirschmann interjected I know where I am going with it. I am protecting the neighborhoods just like everyone else is.

Alderman Gatsas responded okay but just remember what risk you are putting the City at.

Alderman Hirschmann stated we are not at any risk. We have surface parking lots around the City.

Alderman Gatsas stated the City is guaranteeing a revenue to the civic center. I am not sure if you are aware of that.

Alderman Hirschmann replied not in residential zones. I am not playing ball with that.

Alderman Sysyn stated we should have worked on having parking meters further up...do you know how many people park all the way up and work downtown. They don't want to pay to park anywhere. They park as far as my house.

Alderman Hirschmann stated that is why we need the signs that say permit parking only and if you don't have a permit you get towed. That way we are benefiting the residents.

Alderman Lopez stated I agree with Alderman Vaillancourt and Alderman Gatsas. The only question I ask is how this came about. I think that is where the confusion is. If you can tell us how this came about. If it is in the report for the civic center and they designated these areas as being part of revenue...I don't remember. You will have to educate me on that.

Mr. Lolicata replied it was not only considered part of the revenue, but it was considered part of your traffic count for parking for the civic center within the radius of that inner circle. These are the neighborhoods that were affected by it. As far south as Valley and the 2,000 mark was almost to Amherst Street, I believe.

Then there was another circle. That inner circle is what they figure would be the comfortable distance for people to walk to an event. Anything after that, like the Pearl Lot or something like that...plus we are thinking of shuttles on top of this but that was all part of this report. That is what they based all of this upon. Do you want these 10-hour meters tabled right now to look into areas that you don't consider residential? This does affect everything what you are doing right now.

Chairman Clancy stated let's just look at it a little longer.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Clancy stated I have a request for ½ Parking on Spruce Street between Massabesic and Belmont on the north side. There is a business owner there who tells me that people come to his tailor shop and there is no place to park.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve this request.

Alderman Pariseau stated at the request of Alderman O'Neil, he received a phone call from a resident of South Beech Street who is handicapped or has some sort of impairment and he is looking for a crosswalk at Gold and South Beech Street.

Mr. Lolicata replied that would be one of the last places that I would even think of recommending a crosswalk. That is probably one of the most dangerous situations I have ever heard of. I will look at it, but I don't agree with that.

Alderman Pariseau asked what do you want the individual to do.

Mr. Lolicata answered sometimes a crosswalk is the worst possible thing in the world to put up depending on the situation.

Alderman Pariseau replied the people don't stop to let this poor gentleman cross the street from the west side of South Beech to the east side of South Beech.

Mr. Lolicata asked you mean to tell me that a driver will not yield to a pedestrian, which is the law.

Alderman Pariseau answered no that is why they are looking for a crosswalk to make it more visible so this gentleman doesn't get hit.

Mr. Lolicata stated under our state laws...once I put a crosswalk there I would be very afraid that I would cause more harm and someone might get killed. It gives a

false sense of security and it is in a bad position and in a bad place. Right on top of the hill at Gold and South Beech, I would be very reluctant to put one there.

Alderman Pariseau replied on the north end, not the south end. Not as you are just coming up the hill.

Mr. Lolicata stated any four corners up there, I would be very reluctant. I was asked to look into the one-way going up Sewall and I will not...

Chairman Clancy stated it is 1001 South Beech Street.

Alderman Sysyn asked can I take off the crosswalks off the table for Lowell and Union Street.

Mr. Lolicata answered we should start painting by the end of April or beginning of May. I thought they were already passed. If you want to pass them tonight, go ahead.

TABLED ITEMS

Copy of a communication from the Public Works Director to Rich Davis recommending an alternative to a request for the discontinuance of Hampshire Lane between Stark and Mechanic Streets.
(Tabled 10/3/00)

This item remained on the table.

NEW CROSSWALKS

On Lowell Street, east of Union Street
On Lowell Street, west of Union Street
On Union Street, north of Lowell Street
On Union Street, south of Lowell Street
Alderman Sysyn

(Tabled 10/3/00)

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to approve the crosswalks.

Mr. Lolicata stated under new business I was asked to look at South Commercial Street for meters. It doesn't have anything to do with the civic center, but there is

a business possibly moving in down there on South Beech and they want us to look at putting in parking meters and parking. I have gone down there and asked the Highway Department to come up with a plan whereby we can put in parking meters, which I know we can, parallel and then angled. I want to look at this plan to see if we can keep it parallel all the way down or go into angled parking. We are probably going to have to use that down there anyway toward the Singer Park area, which is part of us by the way. There is more parking to be put in there next to the Rubenstein area. It is going to be working for both the civic center and a business is requesting it also.

Chairman Clancy asked how many meters are you talking about roughly.

Mr. Lolicata answered if they let the angled go with the parallel I can pick up on the west side roughly 54. It might be less depending on the plan. We could also add some on the other side and get a total of about 71 down there.

Chairman Clancy asked are you looking for us to give you the okay tonight.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes. I won't put it into effect as far as writing it up until I look at the plan. I just want you to be aware of that.

Alderman Hirschmann asked is this on both sides of WMUR and then in front of the large mill.

Mr. Lolicata answered right now I am looking for just the west side for southbound only.

Alderman Hirschmann asked is that wide enough. Will we lose a lane?

Mr. Lolicata answered you will lose a lane. The road down there between the wall is only 25' across anyway and then it widens way out up above where you can put the angle in. You will lose a lane going in there.

Alderman Hirschmann stated you really should consider when the new highway interchange is built and the new Granite Street Bridge is widened...if you start changing these roads into single lane roads just for parking meters, you have to consider the whole district. You are really going to slow things up and jam up the neighborhood down there. It is going to slow it up.

Mr. Lolicata replied what I took into consideration was I didn't want to hit it coming out where we have the three lanes and the lights coming out. This will be going in, but I follow what you are saying. I am taking that into consideration too. The major portion will be coming out, which I am not going to touch.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve this request.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee